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The sports-gambling industry is moving at a rapid pace as online sports books opened this week. 6

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5 THINGS TO KNOW

WELCOME TO METRO PHILLY

MATT BURKE, SPORTS EDITOR

Hopping over to New Jersey to place a sports bet is a minor pain but it won't always be like this. The sports gambling industry is moving at a rapid pace as we outline today on Page 6 and at **metro.us**. Things are moving so quickly that online betting is already up and running in Jersey and many other states are set to follow suit, including Pennsylvania. Read up on the latest inside.

1 NM CHILDREN WERE BEING TRAINED FOR SHOOTINGS

Two men charged in the abuse of 11 youths found malnourished at a ramshackle compound in New Mexico were training the children with firearms to commit school shootings, prosecutors said in court documents filed in the case on Wednesday. One of the suspects, identified as Huraj Wahhaj, is the father of a young boy whose disappearance from his home near Atlanta months ago prompted the investigation that led authorities to raid the compound, located north of Taos, New Mexico, last week. Remains believed to be that of the boy, who was 3 years old when his mother reported him missing, were found at the property on Monday but have not yet been positively identified, authorities said. Wahhaj, a second man accused of harboring him as a fugitive, Lucas Morton, and three women presumed to be the mothers of the 11 children, who were taken into protective custody from the compound, were each charged with 11 counts of felony child abuse. The five defendants made their initial court appearance before a local magistrate on Wednesday.

2 OUTRAGE OVER OSCARS 'POPULAR' MOVIES HONOR

The Oscars will introduce a new award for popular films and the annual ceremony will be limited to three hours, organizers said on Wednesday, in a bid to stave off slumping audiences for the movie industry's most prestigious honors. The decision to create a special category for popular films sparked an immediate backlash, with one critic saying it smacked of desperation. The sweeping changes also include handing out some of the 24 Academy Awards during commercial breaks in the Feb. 24 broadcast on Walt Disney Co.'s ABC network. "We are committed to producing an entertaining show in three hours, delivering a more accessible Oscars for our viewers worldwide," the board of governors at the Academy of Motion Pictures said in a letter to members. The U.S. television audience for the almost four-hour Oscar ceremony in March 2018 was 26.5 million viewers, the smallest in the awards' 90-year history. The telecast is an important showcase for the film industry, and nominated movies typically attract a new wave of ticket buyers.

3 HEAT WAVE LEADS TO LOW LEVELS OF ELBE RIVER

People walk on an exposed and dried out portion of the Elbe River bed that under normal conditions would be submerged under water during hot weather on Wednesday in Magdeburg, Germany. A heat wave and dry spell are persisting over Germany that this week is bringing temperatures to 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Farmers are reporting plummeting harvests, while shrinking rivers are exposing munitions left over from World War II.

GETTY IMAGES

4 SEC TO EXAMINE MUSK'S TESLA TWEETS

U.S. regulators are asking Tesla Inc. why Chief Executive Elon Musk announced his plan to take the electric carmaker private on Twitter and whether his statement was truthful, the Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday. Musk announced his plan on his personal Twitter account on Tuesday, and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has asked Tesla about the facts of the matter, why it was disclosed on Twitter rather than in a regulatory filing and whether it believed investor-protection rules had been met, the Journal said. The agency declined to comment and Tesla did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Tesla shares fell 2.4 percent to $370.34 on Wednesday after closing up 11 percent on Tuesday, ending about $50 per share below what Musk said he was considering offering. Musk had dropped the surprise plan in a terse tweet, saying, "Am considering taking Tesla private at $420. Funding secured." He has not provided details or evidence of the funding by Twitter or in a following blog posted on the Tesla web site, and several securities attorneys told Reuters Musk could face investor lawsuits.

5 US IMPOSES SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA FOR NERVE AGENT

Washington said on Wednesday it would impose fresh sanctions on Russia by the end of August after it determined that Moscow had used a nerve agent against a former Russian agent and his daughter in Britain. A senior State Department official said it had notified the Kremlin of the sanctions earlier in the day. Sergei Skripal, a former colonel in Russia's GRU military intelligence service, and his 33-year-old daughter, Yulia, were found slumped unconscious on a bench in the southern English city of Salisbury in March after a liquid form of the Novichok type of nerve agent was applied to his home's front door. European countries and the United States expelled 100 Russian diplomats after the attack, in the strongest action by President Donald Trump against Russia since he came to office. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said it had been determined that Russia "has used chemical or biological weapons in violation of international law, or has used lethal chemical or biological weapons against its own nationals."

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LIVE NATION

The sports gambling boom is here

Online betting sites were introduced this week.

MATTHEW BURKE
matthew.burke@metro.us

Bettors place wagers at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort and Casino. Sports books like this are already being introduced on the East Coast. GETTY IMAGES

The sports-gambling boom is happening much faster than many believed it would since the Supreme Court ruled in May that legalization would be up to individual states instead of being restricted on a federal level.

Things are already up and running in New Jersey, Delaware and Mississippi, and New Jersey was the first to roll out online sports betting. DraftKings, through a partnership with Resorts Casino Hotel, launched the first legal online sports betting platform outside of Nevada this week. All of the future online sites must be partnered with physical sports books within a state with legal gambling.

For people currently outside of states with legal sports betting thinking that they could somehow hack their way onto one of these sites, the early returns are that the sites are already very much secured.

"It's creepy how well they can locate you," said sports business and gaming analyst John Brennan, of USBets.com. "They can thank all the online poker and online casino people. All the experimentation with deposits and withdrawals — it's paid off for them. If you're say, driving in your car across the New Jersey border into Pennsylvania the [online betting website] will ping you and shut you down as soon as you cross state lines."

Interestingly, Brennan believes that the rise of online sports betting will not spell doom for offshore sports gambling web sites.

"The thing is, the odds are often much better on off-shore sites," Brennan said. "Plus there are people who are used to playing the off-shore sites. The problem with a lot of these new sports books opening up are that the odds for winning are really poor. So, I don't think the neighborhood bookie is going away."

East Coast expansion

MGM has been at the forefront of expansion lately as it relates to sports gambling. It bought Empire City Casino and Yonkers Raceway in New York right after the Supreme Court ruling and MGM Springfield (Massachusetts) is opening later this month. The anticipation is that sports betting will be legalized in the states of New York and Massachusetts by the end of 2019.

"There likely won't be much movement in New York until next spring with all the political in-fighting right now. Plus they're dealing with the Native American casinos," Brennan said. "Massachusetts is not exactly a leader to get it right now but I think they will in 2019 or 2020 because of the acceptance of the casino culture. And in Pennsylvania the taxes are just really high. It will depend on how eager some operators will be to get into that market."

The gaming board in Pennsylvania is expected to act on another package of sports betting regulations, including prop bets, on Aug. 15.

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WEEK 27: 8/6-8/12/18

NY Congressman Collins, son charged with insider trading

Rep. Chris Collins, R-N.Y., attends a House Energy and Commerce Communications and Technology Subcommittee markup in Rayburn Building in 2018. GETTY IMAGES

The indictment came as the Republican was seeking a fourth two-year term in November's elections.

Christopher Collins, a Republican U.S. congressman from New York who was one of President Donald Trump's earliest supporters, was criminally charged on Wednesday with taking part in an insider trading scheme involving an Australian biotechnology company on whose board he served.

The indictment came as Collins, 68, was seeking a fourth two-year term in November's elections, where Democrats hope to recapture the House of Representatives.

Two lawyers for Collins, Jonathan Barr and Jonathan New, said in a statement that they were confident he would be "completely vindicated and exonerated," and that they would "mount a vigorous defense to clear his good name."

The indictment charged Collins, his son Cameron, and Stephen Zarsky, the father of Cameron Collins' fiancée, with securities fraud, wire fraud and other crimes. All three also face civil charges by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Amanda Bassen, a lawyer for Zarsky, declined to comment. Lawyers for Cameron Collins could not immediately be reached. All three defendants were expected to appear in the U.S. District Court in Manhattan later Wednesday.

The case related to Innate Immunotherapeutics Ltd, where Christopher Collins sat on the board and held a 16.8 percent stake.

Prosecutors said that in June 2017, Collins learned in an email from Innate's chief executive that a trial for its proposed secondary multiple sclerosis drug MIS416 had failed.

According to the indictment, Collins passed that information on to his son, who in turn passed the news to his fiancee, Zarsky and a friend. Zarsky went on to tip his brother, his sister and a friend, the indictment said.

Christopher Collins did not trade his own Innate stock, which lost millions of dollars in value, according to the indictment.

Prosecutors said the congressman knew he was "virtually precluded" from trading in part because he already faced a congressional ethics probe related to his Innate holdings.

However, prosecutors said others avoided more than $768,000 in losses when Innate's share price plunged to 3.5 cents from 45 cents after the drug trial results were announced.

Innate, which is based in Sydney, did not immediately respond to a request for comment outside business hours.

Collins represents New York's solidly Republican 27th Congressional District, and nonpartisan analysts predict he will win re-election. The district includes areas surrounding Buffalo and Rochester in the northwestern part of the state.

Last October, the Office of Congressional Ethics said in a report that it had "substantial reason" to believe Collins may have used his office to help Innate.

It voted unanimously to send its case to the House Ethics Committee. Collins denied wrongdoing. REUTERS

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ISTOCK

New breast milk depots open in Philly area

Breast milk donations are now accepted at three Philadelphia-area locations to help babies in need.

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For women who are either in need of or looking to donate breast milk, new breast milk depots recently opened in the Philadelphia area allow for safe, convenient donations and pick-ups.

The depots were opened by the Mid-Atlantic Mothers' Milk Bank (MAMMB) at three locations: Lifecycle WomanCare in Bryn Mawr and the Breastfeeding Resource Center locations in Abington and Wayne.

The Milk Bank works to provide breast milk to hospitalized infants in need, specifically infants born prematurely — which make up about 11 percent of the 140,000 babies born in Pennsylvania and West Virginia annually. Natural breastmilk has been shown to produce organic benefits that can't be equaled with formula.

"Babies receiving donated breast milk in the NICU [neonatal intensive care unit] for necessary supplementation have lower rates of serious complications and tend to leave the hospital earlier than those being fed formula," MAMMB said in a press release announcing the opening of the new breast milk depots.

The depots are intended for local women, "who have excess milk beyond their own baby's needs" MAMMB said, to drop off donations that can help out other babies. All donor moms are volunteers and must undergo screening, while donated milk will be bottled, pasteurized and tested before being provided to sick infants.

"These new milk depots will make donating more accessible for local moms," MAMMB executive director Denise O'Connor said in a statement. "There are some moms in the area already donating, and we hope the milk depots will encourage even more. The presence of a milk bank or milk depots in a region is also associated with an increase in breastfeeding rates, which is our ultimate goal — more babies having the benefits of their own mother's milk."

"These new milk depots will make donating more accessible for local moms."
Denise O'Connor, MAMMB executive director

MAMMB opened in Pittsburgh in 2016 and said it has received donations from nearly 1,000 women, dozens of whom reportedly came from the Philadelphia area. They say they've so far donated 290,000 ounces to 23 different hospitals and numerous clinics throughout Pennsylvania and West Virginia, the area they currently serve.

"The Breastfeeding Resource Center works with mothers in the hospital and in our outpatient settings. Our IBCLCs [International Board Certified Lactation Consultants] see the strong need for donor milk in our NICUs," Breastfeeding Resource Center executive director said in a statement. "Our dream is that we can one day have it available to full-term babies also."

Philadelphians can also donate breast milk at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), and at other depots like one at Acelleron Medical Products in Bensalem.

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Heather has been an avid photographer for over 13 years and a product educator for the Philadelphia area since 2013. She specializes in portraiture, long exposure, live concert, and weddings. Her work has appeared in publications like Pure Grain Audio, Alternative Press, New Noise, and Substream Magazines.

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This photograph depicts a ventral view, i.e., underside, of an adult female Haemaphysalis longicornis tick, commonly known as the longhorned tick. JAMES GATHANY/CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

New parasite spreads around East Coast

The longhorned tick has been found in Pennsylvania, and is potentially dangerous to humans.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
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Ticks have been a growing menace across the United States, but now, a new species has been found around Pennsylvania called the longhorned tick, and it could bring even bigger threats.

The longhorned tick, scientific name *Haemaphysalis longicornis*, is spreading along the East Coast, marking the first time a new tick species has emerged in 50 years, The New York Times reported.

But what is it about the longhorned tick that has public health officials concerned? It's an Asian tick species that can self-clone, meaning it can reproduce asexually through a process called parthenogenesis. This means that female longhorned ticks can lay hundreds of eggs without mating, thus reproducing into large numbers quickly.

The longhorned tick is native to Japan, China and Korea and often found in Australia and New Zealand. But recently, it has been spreading to the States.

The tick species first appeared in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, in 2017.

When the New York State Health Department first announced the arrival of the longhorned tick in New York this summer, experts cautioned that the longhorned tick has transmitted disease to humans in other parts of the world, but that more research is needed to determine whether this can happen in the United States.

The longhorned ticks found in New Jersey have not been found to carry pathogens or to bite people so far, according to researchers at the Rutgers University Center for Vector Biology in a June 2018 report.

12-30%

Fatality rate of thrombocytopenia syndrome from longhorn ticks in Asia.

However, the researchers note, in the species' native areas in Asia, the longhorned tick has been known to infect humans with several diseases, some of which are fatal.

The biggest threat to humans from longhorned ticks in Asia is, per the Times, a phlebovirus that causes severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome, or SFTS. Thrombocytopenia is a condition in which someone has a low blood-platelet count; platelets help blood clot, so a drop in them can cause internal bleeding. SFTS from longhorned ticks can lead to multiorgan failure and across Asia has been found to have a fatality rate between 12 and 30 percent.

Most health experts in the U.S. are warning that longhorned ticks may pose a particular threat to livestock and pets. The species is also called the cattle tick or bush tick, because longhorned ticks are often found on animals.

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WEEK 27: 8/6-8/12/18

Kavanaugh's SCOTUS confirmation: The future of reproductive rights

The Center for Reproductive Rights weighs in on how Brett Kavanaugh could overturn the Supreme Court's precedent on what liberty means.

NIKKI M. MASCALI
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With the confirmation hearings for President Donald Trump's conservative Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh expected to begin next month, the future of Roe v. Wade and other rights hang in the balance.

Brett Kavanaugh is Trump's second Supreme Court nomination, one that, if approved, would bring the president closer to making good on his campaign promise to overturn Roe v Wade.

Kavanaugh would replace retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy, who has served as a swing vote at critical times the 1973 landmark abortion rights case was threatened. With his expected confirmation, the Center for Reproductive Rights said on its website that "we may now face the greatest risk to the future of reproductive rights in the United States."

To elaborate further on what confirming Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court would really mean for the future of Roe v. Wade, we spoke to Amy Myrick, staff attorney for judicial strategy at the Center for Reproductive Rights.

"Brett Kavanaugh has at least one serious red flag on reproductive rights in his record, and that is his case that he decided about abortion rights of immigrant minors," Myrick said. "He decided it in a way that did not respect the right to abortion, and it raises the stakes and the importance of a complete vetting and him having to answer what does he really think liberty means."

Metro: How detrimental would Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation be?
Amy Myrick: Justice Kennedy was the vote on the Supreme Court who upheld reproductive rights, the right to abortion, at critical times it was really threatened. He was the swing vote that assured that right would not be overturned as long as he was on the court. Replacing Justice Kennedy with someone who was going to be on the other side of those votes and would overturn or seriously weaken Roe's protections would mean that the

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Amy Myrick of the Center for Reproductive Rights weighs in on how Brett Kavanaugh could overturn the Supreme Court's precedent on Roe v. Wade. PROVIDED

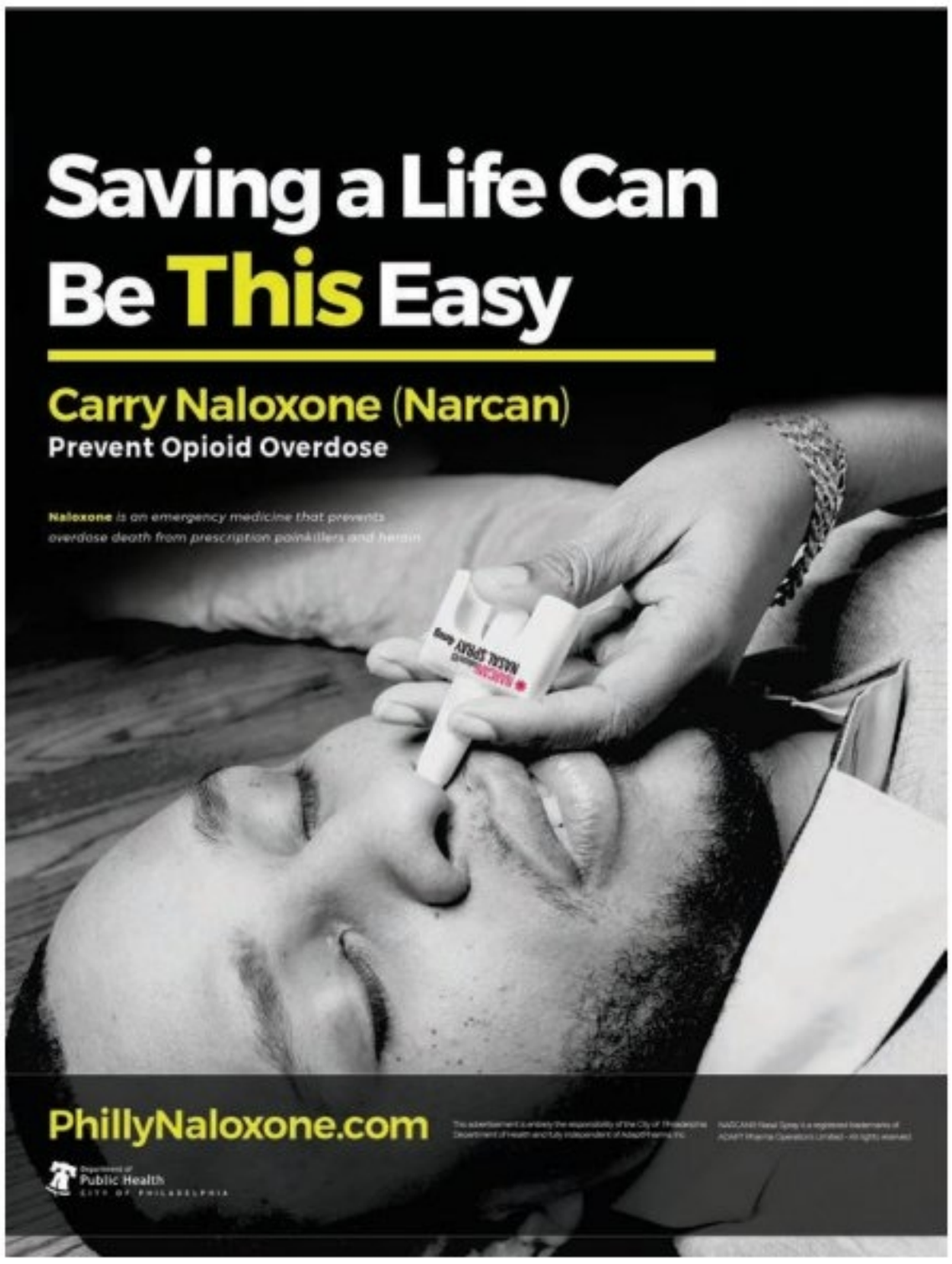
right to abortion could be overturned completely or weakened so much that it's not meaningful.

Is there a current justice who could be that critical swing vote? That's unknowable — every time the court is reconstituted, its approach changes, and the justices interact with each other and come to each issue anew every time it's before them. There's no way we can make predictions about that, but the court has said it cares — and should care — about precedent once it's been established as a core constitutional principle that people rely on.

What would overturning Roe v. Wade do? That doctrine is about how to define liberty, so over time, the court has defined liberty to include rights that are not written into the text of the Constitution, but are really core principles of liberty. That includes not just abortion, but also the right to use contraception, to get married to the person of one's choice, the right to have consensual sex with a partner of one's choice, the right to raise children, the right to have children — all these rights are not in the Constitution, but the court has recognized all of them because of the way it's read liberty.

Overturning Roe would be taking a huge part of that back, which would really drastically undermine its whole approach to the Constitution that it's held for the past 40-plus years.

What needs to happen in the forthcoming confirmation hearings for Brett Kavanaugh? The Senate can't confirm somebody who hasn't demonstrated clearly and unequivocally that he or she supports the approach to the Constitution that has been used to find and protect the right to abortion and other kinds of fundamental liberties rights over time. We can't allow someone to skate by without making a clear statement about that like nominees have tried to do in the past. Nominees try to get out of talking about how they view constitutional interpretation, which is core to how somebody is going to serve as a justice. Those questions are completely legitimate and have to be answered before someone can get confirmed.



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Pot for pets: Some vets are afraid to talk about marijuana

Veterinarians are reluctant to even discuss prescribing pot for pets, which remains illegal under federal law.

A wave of medical research is providing fresh evidence that marijuana may help dogs and cats cope with arthritis, epilepsy, anxiety and other maladies without the side effects of traditional drugs, but veterinarians are afraid to prescribe pot for pets for fear of running afoul of federal laws.

At least 30 U.S. states have legalized medical marijuana, but none of them make provisions for ailing animals.

As a result, veterinarians are reluctant to even discuss prescribing pot for pets, which remains illegal under federal law, over concerns of putting their professional licenses at risk, said Dr. Jeffrey Powers, chair of the American Veterinary Medical Association's subcommittee on cannabinoids. That leaves it to pet owners themselves to make life-altering decisions about dosing and duration of the treatment.

Change could come soon to California, which appears ready to pass the nation's first law giving veterinarians the legal cover they need to answer questions about using pot for pets.

"A human can get their doctor's advice but a dog can't, legally. It's bizarre," said Judy Boyle, 62, of Beaver Island, Michigan, whose dog Mac had for years been taking traditional prescription medicines for arthritis and anxiety. The cumulative effect of those drugs was causing Mac's liver to fail.

80%

Of respondents said they bought hemp or marijuana products for their dogs.

Research on her home computer convinced Boyle in March to instead regularly give her 40-pound Australian Cattle Dog cannabinoid dog chews. Five months later, he's a much calmer yet more energetic dog, and his liver function has returned to normal for the first time in years, Boyle said.

Cannabidiol — a cannabis plant extract also known as CBD — is the featured ingredient in hemp oils, chews and other pet products that are more popular than ever. CBD is associated with pain relief, as opposed to THC, the ingredient in marijuana which at higher concentrations is associated with euphoric "high" feelings.

Since the federal government still bans cannabis as a controlled substance — and U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has vowed to get tough on marijuana - many veterinarians have been warned by their state professional licensing boards not to mention it as a treatment option.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

At present, "veterinarians are in violation of California law if they are incorporating cannabis into their practices," the state Veterinary Medical Board said in a statement. The same is true in most states.

Pet lovers, taking matters into their own hands, are snapping up CBD products, according to a 2018 nationwide survey

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of 1,068 dog owners by Colorado State University veterinary medicine researchers. Nearly 80 percent of respondents said they bought hemp or marijuana products for their dogs.

In the nonscientific online survey, pet owners reported that pot products were nearly 44 percent more effective for a dog's pain relief and 41 percent more effective for anxiety than conventional medicines.

Clinical research into CBD also is beginning to produce results.

Cornell University researchers found CBD increases comfort and activity in dogs with arthritis, according to a study published in July in Frontiers in Veterinary Science. CBD led to a reduction in frequency of seizures in 89 percent of dogs with epilepsy, according to preliminary results of a Colorado State University study released last month.

Interest in CBD products has surged this summer, as July Fourth holiday fireworks and thunderstorms trigger severe anxiety for many pets. In the second quarter of 2018, Google searches for CBD products for humans and animals was 12 times higher than a year earlier. The biggest jump was in searches for "CBD for pets" and "hemp for pets," GlobalCannabinoids.io, a distributor of hemp-derived cannabinoids, reported this week.

Demand for information is so strong that a panel discussion was packed at CatCon, the world's biggest cat-centric event held in Pasadena, California, last weekend. It was titled, "Cannabis and Cats: What You Need to Know Meow"

"I went to my vet and she goes, 'I can't talk about it,'" said CatCon founder Susan Michals.

"It's an important conversation that needs to be had," Michals said. "It's scary for people to go on and talk to Dr. Google and try and figure [dosage] if your cat weighs eight pounds or your other cat 16 pounds, will you OD [overdose] them?" REUTERS

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Pat King
Grumble Editor

the GRUMBLE

It's time to announce our Grumble of the week. This week's winner is Metro New York reader Paula K. for her Grumble defending the rights of pedestrians. Congrats! You will be receiving a **$25 gift card to Amazon Prime** from Metro. Keep sending your grumbles to grumble@metro.us for your chance to win!

READER WRITE-INS:

WEARING PLASTIC GLOVES DOES NOT SOLVE EVERYTHING!
I guess the health department (the same one that can give a restaurant an A when they have roaches but a B because they have a newspaper on the counter) makes a lot of workers at bakeries and delis wear gloves ... but wearing them is often LESS sanitary. I have seen countless people wearing gloves touch the cash register, their hair, and most offensively, some oozy smelly cheese pizza, cold cuts and THEN touch my blueberry muffin. And THEN touch one of those things AGAIN. I usually have to ask them to use the tissue paper even with their gloves on ... in reality if they just frequently wash their hands AND use tissue paper, that is much better with little danger of contamination or cross-flavor issues!
- **Steven Jay,** *Metro US reader*

DISAPPEARING PACKAGES!
My grumble is with the Postal Service. Is it getting lazier or what? Many of my neighbors and I have had several package DISAPPEAR or have been sent back or not show up at all. It's convenient to shop online but it is becoming too frustrating to deal with the many problems of actually getting the mail. What happened to the days of leaving a slip or notice to pick up your package at the actual post office. I don't know what's going on but someone needs to do a better job with the mail.
- **Melinda Tirado,**
Metro New York reader

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The winning caption from Joe Paru, *Metro Boston reader*

MONDAY'S PHOTO:

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Aries Focus on personal gains and physical improvements. Don't let anyone discourage you from spending time or money to get ahead. Invest in you.

Taurus Don't act on an emotional whim. An added expense will leave you scrambling later in the month. Protect against theft, poor investments and impractical moves.

Gemini Spend more time working out details that will help you avoid an expense you can avoid with proper planning. Personal improvements should be a priority.

Cancer Take the time to find out where you stand. Ask questions and discuss your intentions and plans with someone who can affect your decision.

Leo If you push yourself, the satisfaction and results you get will be outstanding and will keep anyone trying to distract you in his or her place. Focus and win.

Virgo Emotional or physical support can be just as compelling as financial aid, and can offer greater satisfaction for both you and the individual you assist.

Libra Get moving. Make a point to take care of business that is hanging over your head. Don't wait until someone else steps in and takes charge. Live up to your expectations.

Scorpio Consider what's at stake before you make a move that is likely to cause trouble between you and someone you care about.Diplomacy will be required.

Sagittarius Chase your dream. Activate your plans. Look forward and own whatever you do. Your passionate and timely gestures will have an impact on what's to come.

Capricorn Know what you want and make whatever changes are required to reach your goal. Personal gratification will come from following through with your plans.

Aquarius Share your enthusiasm with others, but don't let anyone take control or entice you to expand too quickly or take on too much. Stick to your set plans.

Pisces Look for the best way to expand your interests. Calling in a favor or reconnecting with someone you have enjoyed working with in the past will be beneficial. EUGENIA LAST

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BlacKkKlansman" tells the true story of how an African-American detective infiltrated the KKK. BLUMHOUSE PRODUCTIONS

How John David Washington landed the role of a lifetime in 'BlacKkKlansman'

The actor opens up about working with Spike Lee, Jordan Peele's involvement and more.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
Gregory.Wakeman@metro.us

John David Washington was never actually offered the part of Det. Ron Stallworth in "BlacKkKlansman. Instead, Spike Lee, who previously directed his famous father, Denzel, in four movies, "just said, 'See you this summer,'" Washington recalls. "That is how I got the job."

Not that Washington would have turned Lee down. He immediately recognized the opportunity and importance of the film, which tells the true story of how an African American detective infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan, speaking over the phone with members, including then-Grand Wizard David Duke, while sending in an undercover white officer.

"The fact that Jordan Peele and Spike Lee are on this project with this particular subject matter it was a no-brainer to be a part of it," he says. "It couldn't have been in more responsible hands. This script, I don't think I would have wanted to be a part of it if it weren't for these men. I think they are the only men that can handle this subject matter and do it responsibly."

"It could have gone off the rails if you had tried to hit buttons or be too suggestive or preachy or overtly artistic," Washington adds. "They are great storytellers. They seem to have a passion for the process and the process of storytelling, which was appropriate for the subject matter. So I thank God he was involved in a major way."

While Washington didn't get to meet Peele, he waxed lyrical about every other detail of

GETTY IMAGES

"BlacKkKlansman's" production. First of all there was Lee, David Rabinowitz, Charlie Wachtel and Kevin Willmott's script, which Washington was "impressed by for many different reasons," but primarily because it "didn't try to manipulate the story."

"They didn't try to add things that would make it a more cinematic experience but would take away from the film and the story," he says. "Because it is a true story and is supported by facts and by people that are actually living, we had our foundation that was there."

Once he finally got in front of the camera, even Washington was surprised at just how inclusive the shooting process was, especially when it came to working with the legendary Lee.

"We were all on the same page here. What I learned from Spike is legend, because legend told me to trust myself. So when a hero tells you to do that, you do it," Washington says. "And I'm glad I did it because it all worked out for the best. It was the most freeing experience I have ever had and the most freeing performance and the loosest performance I have ever delivered."

"I have been wanting to deliver more loose performances, but I haven't been able to, because of the different types of direction," he adds. "But in this case, I was in, because a legend told me to do so."

"BlacKkKlansman" opens in theaters Aug. 10.

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Why it took 20 years to bring 'The Meg' to the big screen

Steve Alten talks us through his story of a 75-foot prehistoric shark wreaking havoc.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
GregoryWakeman@metro.us

This mega-shark would even scare Jaws. WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Over past 22 years, every time writer Steve Alten has visited the cinema with his wife, he has turned to her during the previews and said, "One day we will be watching the preview for my movie."

How difficult was it bringing the book to the big screen?

When I finished it I sought out agents to handle it, and only one agent was interested. He took the book out and actually got a pre-publish, first look deal with a studio. So the first dramatic rights for "The Meg" were actually sold back in 1996 a month before the book rights were sold. But what happened then with Disney is that we went through two drafts of the screenplay and then the head of the studio was fired. When a new president comes in they never take the old guy's stuff, so the rights reverted back to me.

And then in 2004 I talked to a friend of mine, Nick Nuziata, who was the founder of a website about movies that were in development, and he showed the book to Guillermo Del Toro and Lloyd Levin, the producer of "Hellboy." They optioned it from me for a $1, while I wrote the script with Jan De Bont, who was brought in to direct. That package was sold to New Line Cinemas back in 2005. The problem there was that they hired a new screenwriter ... who decided to go off on his own and write a completely different story, which didn't make any sense. He sort of wrote "Moby Dick" but with a giant shark. Horrible.

So, fortunately, the rights reverted back to me two years later, so I got in contact with producer Belle Avery, her forte was raising money, who took to Gravity Pictures in China, who took it to Warner Bros, and finally we were on the right track.

How does it feel to finally see "The Meg" in theaters?

Obviously I am thrilled, flattered and humbled. I have Parkinson's diseases, so that makes it a little harder to enjoy, but I get through that. I am really looking forward to seeing the movie at the premiere. All I have seen is the trailers, but they have me jacked up about it.

"The Meg" opens in theaters Aug. 10.

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A121 - Anderson, Kimberly; A209 - Fields, Jamie; A250 - Brown, Leon; A632 - Lee, Marilyn; A645 - Lilliston, Angela; B3020 - Knox, Erica; B4008 - Heath, Robert; B923 - Powell Jr, Willie; B932 - Archer, Robert; C7008 - Jones, Dorothy; C7017 - Boone, Coretta

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1534 - Meyer, Christine

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1078 - Abdullah, Naseem; 1095 - Kreamer, Patrick; 1143 - Delucia, Emily; 1222 - Danitz, William; 3002 - Snyder, Gina; 3077 - Parker, Waddell; 3093 - Romney, T Benjamin; 3120 - Alston, Nakia; 3168 - Bisram, Christiana; 3175 - Scott, Carla; 3190 - Johnson, Rene; C1003 - Dentamaro, Evoleen; C1013 - James, Wayne; D1011 - Soppick, Nicole; D1024 - Williams, Alycia

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C049 - Howard, Salima; C050 - Certain, Nathan; C091 - Grier, Christyana; C123 - Stewart, Muriel; C139 - Girard, Michael; D014 - Barkley, Kimberly; D052 - Barkley, James; D097 - Baxter jr, Augustus; D147 - Hemans-Mensah, Hilary; D157 - Wynn, Daniel; D216 - Crescenzo, Michael; D226 - Talmadge, Alexander; D234 - Zameska, Christopher; D245 - Price, Kayla; E204 - Karikari, John; E254 - Jones, Duane

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August 23, 2018 Time: 12:00 PM

A202 - Gordon, Martina; A216 - Gripper, Naima; B415 - Fashina, Ejide; C628 - Morris, Dominic; D819 - RUDDICK, MARGARET; D821 - Jones, Serilda; D825 - Jones, Jene; E1003 - Boyd, Valerie; E1031 - Young, Sharon; E1044 - Gatto, Francis; E914 - Lawson, Nicholas; E934 - Schell, Jasmine; F1117 - Ballard, Bruce; F1119 - Bryant, Sharita; F1246 - Evans, Joann; F1248 - Bryant, Tamara; F1266 - Rochester, Diane; F1279 - Mays, Derek; G1417 - Pagan, Destiny; G1419 - Ortiz, Raymond; G1427 - Lewkowski, Danika; H1509 - Gallman, Nikakia; H1601 - Smith, Ryan; H1633 - Robinson, Conar

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Chloë Grace Moretz educates us on conversion therapy and the importance of voting

"The Miseducation of Cameron Post" star opens up about her new film and what's at stake during the midterm elections.

MATT JUUL
matthew.juul@metro.us

"The Miseducation of Cameron Post" opens in theaters Aug. 10. FILMRISE

The horrors of conversion therapy are on full display in "The Miseducation of Cameron Post," which won the grand jury prize at this year's Sundance.

The film stars Chloë Grace Moretz as the title character, a teen who's forced to enter a Christian treatment center to "cure" her attraction to girls. We chatted with Moretz about the toll conversion therapy takes on people and why it's vital for LGBTQ supporters to vote this fall.

After meeting with real survivors, what surprised you the most about conversion therapy?

One of the first questions I asked each survivor was whether or not they really tried. When they showed up, did they immediately go and understand and realize that this is completely hypocritical, or were they just as committed? Unanimously, the answer from everyone was that they were first and foremost very much so committed and they tried their hardest. It wasn't until years into it, usually around five or six years per person, that they realized that the people in power have absolutely no bearing on reality, no real reliable education to be able to use the psychotherapy in the way they're doing it.

It's interesting to see in the film how language is co-opted to get into these kids' heads.

What's hard is that they use simple ideals of therapy in general. The construct isn't the problem, it's the content and what they're trying to do, get across and manipulate. They just steal the construct and the therapy 101 of it all, which is what these camps do. It's an insidious form of manipulation. Not all the camps are shock therapy and reversion and these aggressive forms. It does take a lot more of an insidious and quiet and silent approach to opening the door within yourself of self-doubt. Through that, they let it, like a cancer, run its course throughout yourself as you start to begin to hate who you were born as.

Are you worried about a rollback of LGBTQ progress under the Trump administration?

As wonderful as the leaps and bounds of the Obama administration were, I think we've seen since as the Trump administration has come into effect, we've seen laws and legislation that were passed, I mean, some of which 50 years ago have started being advocated for, are now on the table to potentially be revoked.

I think reality is harrowing and incredibly motivating in a sense that, one of the problems with the Democratic Party is complacency and those who haven't gone out to vote, even though they've been incredibly unhappy with the political standing in America. I think in these midterms we'll really see whether the Democrats will come out and advocate for what's right. I do think that because of the massive juxtaposition in this country and this lack of gray area, it's really polarized people to make decisions. I think you'll see a lot of young people who might not have been registered to vote, who might've felt it as pertinent to get out there and cast their ballot, I think you're going to see them turning out.

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Where will 'Fear the Walking Dead' go in season 4's second half?

Following the midseason finale's monumental loss, the AMC series is trying new things.

ANDREW HUSBAND
letters@metro.us

The fourth season of AMC's "The Walking Dead" spin-off series was already making big changes in its April premiere. A major time jump and several new characters were indicative of the new showrunners' approach to the show, as was the death of Nick Clark (Frank Dillane), who had been a part of the program since season one. These major changes came to a head in the mid-season premiere in June, when "Fear the Walking Dead" series lead Kim Dickens' character Madison Clark, the mother of Nick, died while sacrificing herself to save her children.

This Sunday, the second half of "Fear the Walking Dead" season four will premiere on AMC. We have no idea if it will provide any satisfactory answers for this and other questions, though judging by a few clips teasing things to come, and occasional comments from showrunners Ian Goldberg and Andrew Chambliss, something is coming. Here are a few predictions about what that might be.

New threats

In an interview with TV Guide, Goldberg and Chambliss revealed "a big part of what our characters are going to be up against is Mother Nature herself." They cautioned that the remaining characters will face "threats that we've seen before," but they'll being doing so "under even more dire circumstances than we've seen in the past." A recent teaser and a new clip released by AMC indicate as much. In the latter, John Dorie (Garret Dillahunt), Naomi (Jenna Elfman) and Althea (Maggie Grace) encountering what looks like a storm surge in a river.

Another crossover?

The arrival of Morgan Jones (Lennie James) in season four presented "Fear the Walking Dead" with a major "The Walking Dead" crossover. Since the somewhat deranged traveler's departure from the latter's Alexandria stronghold, audiences have been left to ponder if, and when, another crossover would happen.

Get ready for more "Fear the Walking Dead" this weekend. AMC

As former "The Walking Dead" showrunner Scott Gimple told audiences at the 2018 San Diego Comic-Con, fans shouldn't "expect" another one, "but things could happen."

Will Morgan leave?

Adding fuel to the crossover fire is the fact that, per a midseason premiere clip previewed exclusively by TV Guide, it seems Morgan wants to go back to Alexandria. "I'm heading back east in the morning," he tells Alicia Clark (Alycia Debnam-Carey), the surviving daughter of Madison. "Heading back where I came from, and I think you should come along. I think it would be good for you, and I think you could do a lot of good there."

Alicia may go with him

Whether or not Morgan actually manages to return to the setting of "The Walking Dead" remains to be seen. The same goes for whether or not Alicia decides to join him following the monstrous losses she has already suffered. And judging by her haunted looks in a recent teaser, Alicia just might decide to go, if not take some other kind of drastic action.

"Fear the Walking Dead" returns Sunday at 9 p.m.

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The "SNL" star brings the funny to Philly this weekend. ROBYN VON SWANK

'SNL' star Melissa Villaseñor reveals the secret behind her celebrity impressions

The comedian breaks down her approach to impersonating stars.

A.D. AMOROSI
letters@metro.us

Calling from somewhere in Indiana, right after an elliptical workout, comedian Melissa Villaseñor sounds not winded but as if she's ready to energetically launch into an impersonation. It's the cadence and zeal of her everyday voice — so recognizable from "Saturday Night Live" — that is soothing in its friendliness and alarming in its quick-to-shift fluidity.

Surely, impressions of Owen Wilson, Gwen Stefani, Maria Bamford and more would've been waiting had chatted longer. Then again, perhaps Villaseñor was saving those staged voices, as well as an ever-changing stand-up comedy routine, for her three-day stint (Aug. 9-11) at Punch Line Philly.

"This summer I felt really good about my writing and my creative flow. I want to soak it in while I can and get on the road," she says, regarding her off-time from NBC's "SNL" taping.

Despite being discovered on "America's Got Talent" and familiar to the sketch-comedy world of "SNL," it was stand-up that was her first love and hard workout.

"Though I took classes with the Groundlings and Upright Citizens Brigade, I started in stand-up when I went to Catholic high school in Southern Californian and went to the Laugh Factory Comedy Camp in L.A.," Villaseñor says. "I used it as a way to forward myself. It's free, you know? You don't have to pay to stand behind a mic, do open mics and get better at on your own....

"It also helped to be on the road early on as a stand-up. Bombing out loud helped me. Plus, I could be me. When you're doing sketch work, you can hide behind characters."

"If I enjoy watching them, making me laugh or have a pattern they repeat — that's what pulls me to them."

Before Villaseñor got to "SNL," much was made of her being one of the first performers of Latin heritage on the sketch giant. Looking back, she would have preferred a different focus on her talents — to be hyped as funny before being hyped for heritage.

"I'm obviously very proud of my heritage, but having it hyped like that caused pressure too," she says. "Now that I am talking about my life and family in my stand up that's cool, but I wasn't doing that when I first started at "SNL." Then again, it made me think about my something one of my acting class teachers once said: 'It's not just about getting good at your craft, but learning to be strong enough to handle all that is written about you.'"

Three seasons with "SNL" — apart from her own writing — is she able to get her voice heard? "I think so," says Villaseñor. "I've made friends there, pals within the writer's room, and I think they're beginning to get my humor. And it's a matter of showing people what you are capable of."

Villaseñor says that despite her energy, she's actually shy. "I'm a sensitive person who gets hurt by every little thing, and things like writing help me be free. It's a growth thing. When I feel good, I write." Being in New York City has also opened her up beyond introversion. "I can talk to anyone on the street there now. Now, my energy is that of an extrovert. I'm OK talking."

Villaseñor said her shyness led her to seek out voices to impersonate.

"Oh yeah, absolutely," she says. "The shy, quiet ones are always the observant ones. We soak up what we're seeing and hearing. That comes with the territory."

What catches her ear when it comes to another's voice and mannerism is different with each subject she copycats. "If I enjoy watching them, making me laugh, or have a pattern they repeat — that's what pulls me to them. I just started doing Sandra Bullock and Diane Keaton, both of whom have many repetitious tendencies. Also, it's about liking and admiring the person. That's important to me. There's no method to it all."

Alec Baldwin isn't the only person who call pull off celebrity impressions on "SNL." WILL HEATH/NBC

Melissa Villaseñor with Sterling K. Brown during the sketch "Dying Mrs. Gomez." WILL HEATH/NBC

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Tim Meadows doesn't really get Philly lingo

"The Goldbergs" star tries, though.

A.D. AMOROSI
letters@metro.us

See Tim Meadows bring the laughs this weekend. PROVIDED

To most television watchers, Tim Meadows is a master of sketch and series comedy.

If you don't know him from his multi-character sketch tenure at "Saturday Night Live" (of which Meadows jokes, "not a bad first job in television, right?") where he developed bits such as "The Ladies Man" (later made into his own starring film vehicle), you know Meadows from his role on ABC's Philly-centric comedy "The Goldbergs."

You also know Meadows from his recurring roles in other recent series such as "Man with a Plan," "No Activity" and "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" and, famously, as another high school principal, in the smash film, "Mean Girls."

His comic chops make Meadows a natural for a stand-up comedy gig, the likes of which he'll do at King of Prussia's Valley Forge Casino Resort, on Aug. 11.

"The people I admired most in comedy had a background in sketch work and improve, guys like Robin Williams, Jonathan Winters, even the first casts of 'SNL,'" says Meadows of considering his earliest options in comedy. "I got a lot of my confidence on stage following their lead in improvisation, learning to follow the rules." And break some, presumably — he says much of his stand-up relies on the do's and don'ts of improv and sketch comedy. He his time with "SNL," from 1990 to 2000, as a sort of diving board.

"It's like Eddie Murphy once said, 'Going from 'SNL' into any other job in show business is like moving in slow motion because you just get used to this rapid-fire pace on a daily basis," says Meadows. "Everything else after that seems easy, so I'm really glad that 'SNL' was my first job."

Considering the characters that Meadows brought to life in those 10 years, and whatever writing he took part of in the writing room, does he feel as if he got his due, that he was heard in the writing room? "Nobody's ever asked me that before. Wow. I do feel as if I got in. Maybe during my first few years I was a little overwhelmed and trying to fit in, earn my keep. By the fourth season, however, I made sure to be heard more and get and do stuff that represented me, and my sense of humor. I made friends with writers who got me, and I wrote stuff that put me upfront."

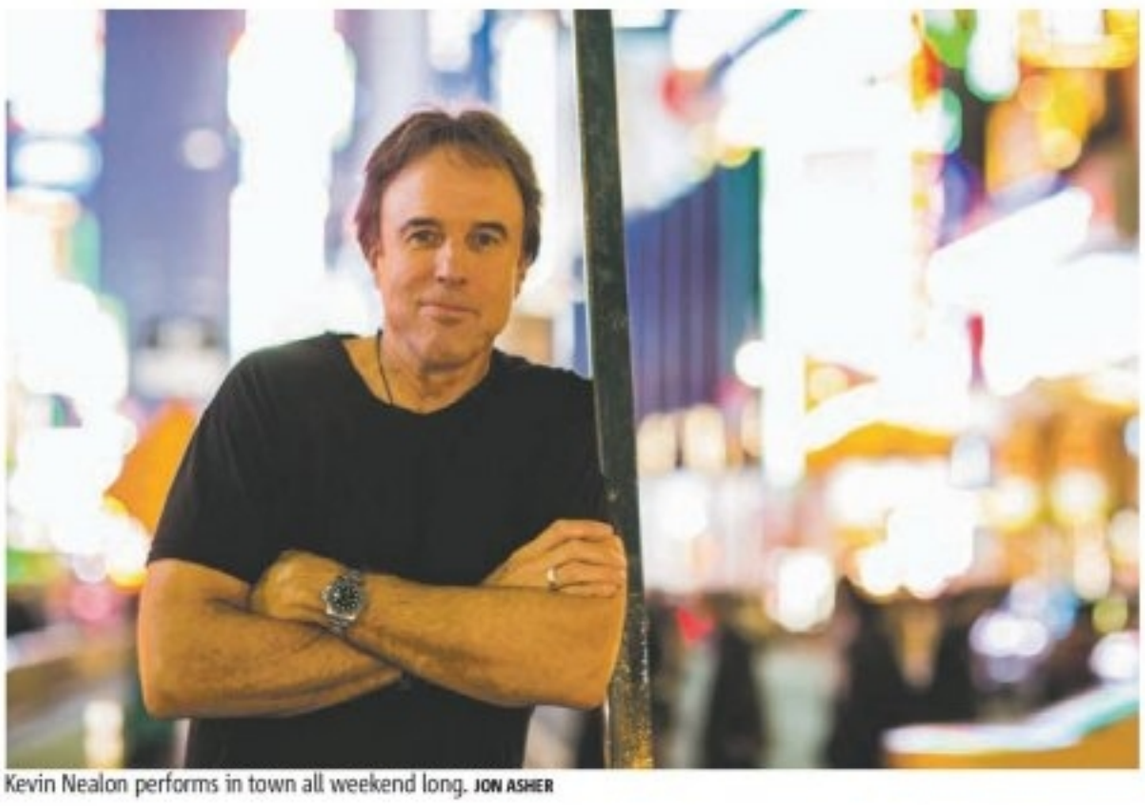
Now Meadows has taken the usually conventional role of a put-upon high school principal in "The Goldbergs" and made him into a quirky, goofy, yet honorable, gentleman.

"They outlined that for me from day one and got me immediately," says Meadows. "I've known some of the writers there since my days on the Chicago stage. Even though the character is based on (show creator) Adam Goldberg's high school teacher, they wrote him with me in mind, which is cool."

And no, no, no — Meadows does not always get all of the local references that Jenkintown-born Goldberg tosses into his show, not the jokes about the Flyers or Philly food or anything. "Some, maybe," he says with a laugh. "Adam likes to throw in a lot of stuff about where and how he grew up."

As for stand-up, Meadows decided to stretch his comic muscles after "a long story" of going through a divorce, oversocializing after the papers were signed and hearing from friends in the biz that perhaps his time would be better spent perhaps heading back into his roots in improv. "My stand-up thing now actually started at UCB and Second City as a three-man team, my own little improv show in Chicago. I was set to do this weekly, but the first night, my buddies were late in getting to the theater. I had to get on stage on time, so I started the show without them, and told stories about my life, about whatever was happening. And still improv. Just without the other two guys. "

And that is what Meadows will bring to the stage of Valley Forge's casino this weekend: funny, genial stories about himself and the world around him — a place that seems fairly busy and wild. "I just want to know how we got here and where we're all going. Me most of all."



Kevin Nealon performs in town all weekend long. JON ASHER

Kevin Nealon talks Johnny Carson, 'SNL' and his favorite comedy memories

The veteran comic performs in Philly this weekend.

A.D. AMOROSI
letters@metro.us

Despite performing top-of-the-line, brand-name sketch comedy (as he did on "Saturday Night Live" for nine years, 1986-1995) and prime series acting gigs (the already seminal "Weeds," the currently running "Man with a Plan"), what Kevin Nealon seems to love and value most are his times as a darkly observant stand-up comic. That's something for Philly to fathom as Nealon is appearing at Helium Comedy Club for a three-night-stint (Aug. 9-11), this weekend.

The fact is that even his very favorite memory of being a comedian and a comic actor — including acting gigs in films and television series with his "SNL" buddies such as Adam Sandler, David Spade and Andy Samberg – revolves around stand-up and his first appearance on "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson," in 1984. "It's not when I hit 'SNL,' but rather being on Carson's stage, then 'getting' the couch and sitting next to him, that I realized that I had made it," says Nealon, from Los Angeles, of the honor of being waved over to the treasured "Tonight Show" couch from Carson himself, a long desired accolade for any comedian. "To this day, there was absolutely nothing like it."

That debut Carson gig stands out in his mind as the second thing in his professional life that was worth making him nervous. "The job that made me the most nervous? Throwing out the first pitch at a Chicago Cubs game. I hadn't thrown a hard ball since childhood, so that morning I had to find a park in Chicago where some guys would catch a ball from me — maybe find a father playing catch with his son."

Since he is always changing forms and finding new vehicles, Nealon, "happily, never has had a chance to be bored," he says. "I don't even have to push my agent to find me things, because I am so fortunate to find great work, whether on camera or live. That keeps life interesting." The thing that does push Nealon to pester his agents, is to find investors for his even newest venture: a semi-autobiographical script, penned with his writing partner and wife, Susan Yeagley, called "The Pleaser."

Nealon is over-the-moon about writing with the woman he's been married to since 2005, with whom he had his first child in his early 50s. "That's what we wrote about," he said, with a laugh. "My wife was a jewel right under my nose when it came to writing and acting, and we work well together on both counts. We have chemistry. We have symmetry. And together, we're spinning the story of a couple trying to get pregnant, and the wife invites her gay mother — a fertility expert — and her partner to live with them at their home within a beach community to help them get pregnant." And laughs ensue.

Nealon is used to the freedom of writing not just with his wife but when he was part of the "SNL" writing room. "That was really a boot camp. I never wrote characters or action before that, as I was just a stand-up when I got there. Oddly enough, 'SNL' was something I went after. Once I was there, it was more like a school, and you learned fast. And as competitive as it was, what with people working fast and trying to get their sketches on, it was truly an opportunity to promote yourself if you had something good."

What's good for Nealon now, as a stand-up comic, is a brand of comedy that is darkly absurdist and weirdly wild; not "Waiting for Godot" existentialist or "Bald Soprano" avant-garde, but certainly askew. "I love keeping things unpredictable, to keep audiences on its toes and listening hard," he says.

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1218 Lance Jenkins, 1519 Stephanie Major, 908 TRK Solutions Inc, 102 Isaac Jlaka, 1422 TRK Solutions Inc, 1123 TRK Solutions Inc, R21 Delores Parker, I8 Craig Joel

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Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell the contents of leased spaces to satisfy Extra Space's lien at the location indicated: **6204 Oxford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111. August 15, 2018** at **2:30PM**

B161C Antonio Perez III, B186C Kadian A. Paul, B221C Edward Rodriguez, E117 Zenon Wojnarowicz, E122 Steven Monvil, F151 Jorge A. Salvatierra

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Unit# 1080 Sally Claud
Unit# 2030 Monique Gardner
Unit# 2053 Stephanie Derer
Unit# 2060 Keith Smith
Unit# 2101 Karima Campbell
Unit# 2150B Robert White
Unit# 2174 Donna Christopher
Unit# 2177 Jamie Mason
Unit# 2231 Elliot Chaplin
Unit# 3032 Nakea Murray
Unit# 3061 Peter Gordon
Unit# 6043 Baron Herder
Unit# 6060 Tracy Romans
Unit# 7058 Rasheed Jones
Unit# 7071 Elmaldi Smythe
Unit# 7076 Heather Thomas
Unit# 8109 George Campbell Jr.
Unit# 8152 Anthony Myles
Unit# 8222 Ayana Mapp
Unit: A04 James Glenn
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Unit: A15 Jakotora Tjoutuku
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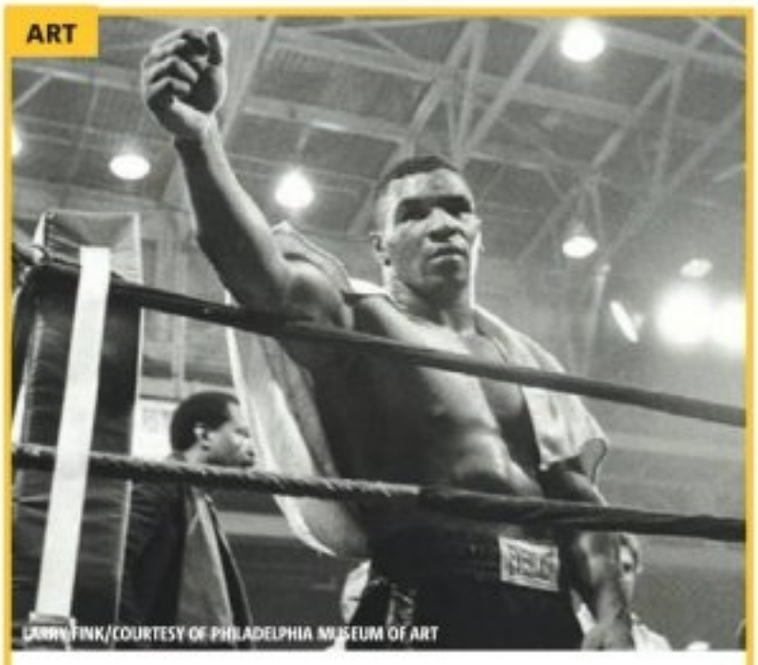
ART



Larry Fink: The Boxing Photographs

Photographer-activist Larry Fink has gone down several roads in his artistic life, capturing, as he has, the Beat poets of the '50s and '60s and Manhattan's hoi polloi in the '70s. Yet, it was Fink did in 1990s that fills this new exhibition, The Boxing Photographs, as he hung out in gyms (including Philly's famed Blue Horizon) and snapped men while in serious pugilistic action, as well as in the act of male bonding.
Opens Aug. 11, Philadelphia Museum of Art, 2525 Pennsylvania Ave., philamuseum.org

MUSIC

Live + Counting Crows

Cauliflower-sprout-haired Adam Durwitz's Crows may be the headline, but most local will be at the BB&T for the reunion of Live, York, Pennsylvania's grungy, spiritualized favorite. Unlike most bands of the '90s and early 2000s, these guys aren't resting on their laurels or relying purely on old songs, as its new single "Love Lounge" is intense and loud.
Aug. 11, 6:30 p.m., BB&T Pavilion, 1 Harbour Blvd., Camden, N.J., $22, ticketmaster.com

ART

Leif Low-Beer

With his "Line Segment Where Two Faces Meet (weight bearing and locomotive)" exhibition, Low-Beer creates a series of seemingly linear, and unrelated, objects meant to tell differing and divergent stories dependent upon the improvisational interaction among said item.
Aug. 10, 7 p.m., Space 1026, 1026 Arch St., 2nd floor, free, space1026.com

MUSIC

Jeremih + Teyana Taylor

The nu-R&B singer behind the sinewy, sensual "Birthday Sex" and Kanye West's most recent (and funkiest) protégé join forces for a stormy soul night at the UT.
Aug. 10, 8:30 p.m., Union Transfer, 1026 Spring Garden St.. $40+, utphilly.com

The Blasters

You can't discuss the history of 20th century music, punk, rockabilly or its obsession with the origin story of American roots without mentioning howling vocalist-guitarist Phil Alvin, drummer Bill Bateman and bassist John Bazz: The Blasters. Kung Fu Necktie will be packed from wall to wall. Enjoy.
Aug. 12, 7 p.m., Kung Fu Necktie, 1250 N Front St., $25, kungfunecktie.com

FOOD

Night Market in Kensington

With only one more Food Trust Night Market left in 2018, it is essential to hike it to Kenzo to get your collective food truck fix (including new visitors Dim Sum House and Puyero Venezuelan Flavor), live crust punk and craft-something drink on.
Aug. 9, 6 p.m., Frankford Ave. and York St., thefoodtrust.org/night-market

FAMILY

Peddler's Village Peach Festival & Sidewalk Sale

Along with being a great opportunity for a long drive to bustling and bucolic New Hope, this two-day fest is dedicated to all things fuzzy, juicy and peachy in the name of National Peach Month.
Aug. 10- 12, 10 a.m., Peddler's Village, 2400 Street Rd., New Hope, free admission, peddlersvillage.com

COMEDY

Let's Start a Cult/ Weeding Out the Stoned/Joke Bath: Comedy

Chinatown's Good Good Comedy has an unbeatable triple bill featuring a wealth of this city's snarkiest stand-ups on this night – all involving some form of vice, with the late night event offering free beer, and the stoner bash acting as a game show.
Aug. 10 at 7 p.m., 8:30 p.m. and 10 p.m., Good Good Comedy Theatre, 215 N 11th St., $10, $12 and $12, goodgood.yapsody.com

A.D. AMOROSI

FAMILY

Philadelphia Flying Trapeze grand opening weekend

The Philadelphia School of Circus Arts takes advantage of its role as birthplace of American circus-ry with this city's first permanent outdoor trapeze school. Nearby the historic former St. Madeleine Sophie Church, you'll find yourself soaring into the heavens – or at least up to 25 feet high per each two-hour class.
Aug 10-12, 10 a.m., outside the Philadelphia School of Circus Arts, 6452 Greene St., $63 per two hour class, phillycircus.com/flying-trapeze

FANTASY FOOTBALL ADVICE

OPINION

BILL DUBIEL

Bill Dubiel is a fantasy football expert at Rotoballer.com and Metro.us

Welcome back fantasy football fans! With the preseason games upon us, it's time to start getting ready to chase another championship. Don't forget to check out Rotoballer.com for all of the tools you need to get the edge on your league mates.

Grant separating himself

Former Washington wideout Ryan Grant is making big waves at training camp for the Indianapolis Colts, and fantasy owners need to take notice. Bear in mind this is all assuming a healthy, full-strength Andrew Luck, but there are plenty of reasons to like Grant on draft day. Initial depth charts have Grant as the #2 wide receiver opposite T.Y. Hilton, and on Tuesday Colts coach Frank Reich made special mention of how Hilton and Grant "have really separated themselves" from the other receivers in camp. Hilton is the surefire WR1 in Indy and is a shoo-in for 1,000 yards if he stays healthy, but Andrew Luck elevates the passing game of the Colts so significantly that it's perfectly reasonable to expect 800-900 yards from the secondary option. Jack Doyle and Eric Ebron will be in the mix and there are some playmakers in the back field like Nyheim Hines that might take touches away, but if Grant lives up to the glowing reports coming out of camp then he's a bargain at his current price–which is currently as a last-round flier.

Don't sleep on Meredith

Former Bears wideout Cameron Meredith has evolved into a sneaky late-round flier that could end up being a huge difference-maker for fantasy owners wise enough to invest in him. Meredith missed the 2017 season with a torn ACL and MCL, and fantasy owners don't seem to have fully embraced the notion of a triumphant return, which seems more likely than not. He has already been designated the number two receiver behind Michael Thomas, and in a high-flying, Drew Brees-led offense that position carries plenty of fantasy value. Meredith shone in his last full season with the Bears, hanging a 66-888-4 line across 14 games (only 10 of which he started in), and at just 25 he's certainly got plenty of gas in the tank. Meredith is a terrific bet to return WR3 value with an even higher ceiling in 2018, and should absolutely be on your radar in Round 10 or later.

Graham's price tag

Jimmy Graham is currently coming off the board as the TE4, and his ADP is hovering right around the 53rd pick overall, which is simply too high for him to end up on any team that I own this year. Graham is now 31 years old, and the days of 1,000-yard seasons are well in the rear view mirror at this point. What has most people high on Graham is obvious–he's got Aaron Rodgers throwing to him. However, I still fail to see much upside with that, and certainly not enough to burn a pick in Round 4 or Round 5. Graham was mostly useless outside of the red zone last year, accumulating just 520 receiving yards on 57 catches.

Draft sleepers

Kalen Ballage, RB, Miami Dolphins - Kenyan Drake showed out at the end of last season, but Ballage is a big-bodied bruiser who actually has solid receiving chops.

Aaron Jones, RB, Green Bay Packers - Jamaal Williams filled in admirably last year, but Aaron Jones is the true talent in the Green Bay backfield. It may take a few weeks for him to break through, but I expect Jones to be the back you want by Week 6.

Avoid Jimmy Graham if you can. GETTY IMAGES

Former Chicago Bear Cameron Meredith is now a member of the New Orleans Saints. GETTY IMAGES

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Franco's resurgence powering Phils

Less than two months ago it looked like the third baseman was out the door.

JON MARKS
sports@metro.us

Maikel Franco has smashed nine homers since JP Crawford went down with a wrist injury. GETTY IMAGES

Once considered a bright star in their future, the Phillies seemed to reach a breaking point where they could no longer put up with Maikel Franco's inconsistency.

The rumor mill was spilling that they were trying to move him, which made sense at the time because they were also trying to concoct a deal to bring Manny Machado to town.

In early June, when manager Gabe Kapler began plugging J.P. Crawford into Franco's spot in the lineup at third base—benching Franco four out of five games—his fate appeared sealed.

It seemed only a matter of time before the man from the Dominican Republic, who had been such a sensation when he arrived back in 2015, would be heading elsewhere.

Then everything changed. A freak wrist injury to Crawford re-opened the door for Franco, who's gone on to knock everything out of the park.

Since that time, he's belted nine homers, to go with 21 RBIs while hitting at a .326 clip through Tuesday. Meanwhile, in the field, he's been downright sensational, making several spectacular run-saving plays, which has likely helped turn potential losses into wins.

For all Rhys Hoskins, Odubel Herrera, Nick Williams, and others have done to make these Phillies a first-place team. Kapler and general manager Matt Klentak must shudder to think where they would be without Franco.

"Just a reminder things can turn around fast," said Kapler, while the Phils were in the process of sweeping the Marlins before heading out west.

"In the span of a month, you can go from a guy who's having a hard time staying in the lineup every day, to a guy you legitimately cannot take out of the lineup for any reason."

As good as he's going now, the 25-year-old Franco has learned to take nothing for granted.

"I just try to enjoy the moment. I always try to have fun, but sometimes it's not easy when you see the situation going on," said Franco, who's gone from hitting .241 to .275.

That is when he received some advice from a teammate who could identify with his struggles.

"I told him he has to believe in himself and the ability God gave him to play baseball," said first baseman Carlos Santana, whose locker is directly next to Franco's.

"I feel very comfortable talking to Mikey about stuff like this because I went through it too. This is a sport that has its ups and downs and at times you're going to struggle," he said.

"You just have to trust your ability and stay positive. I'm glad he listened to me because it's a collective effort. If things are working for him, things work out for the whole team."

The Phillies, who were 36-32 at the time, have gone 27-17 since Franco began going on his tear.

Among his clutch hits, none were bigger than the three-run walk-off homer against the Marlins last week, which had his parents texting and calling him and folks all over the Dominican celebrating.

That home run came just days after Franco had played at the home of his boyhood favorite team, Fenway Park.

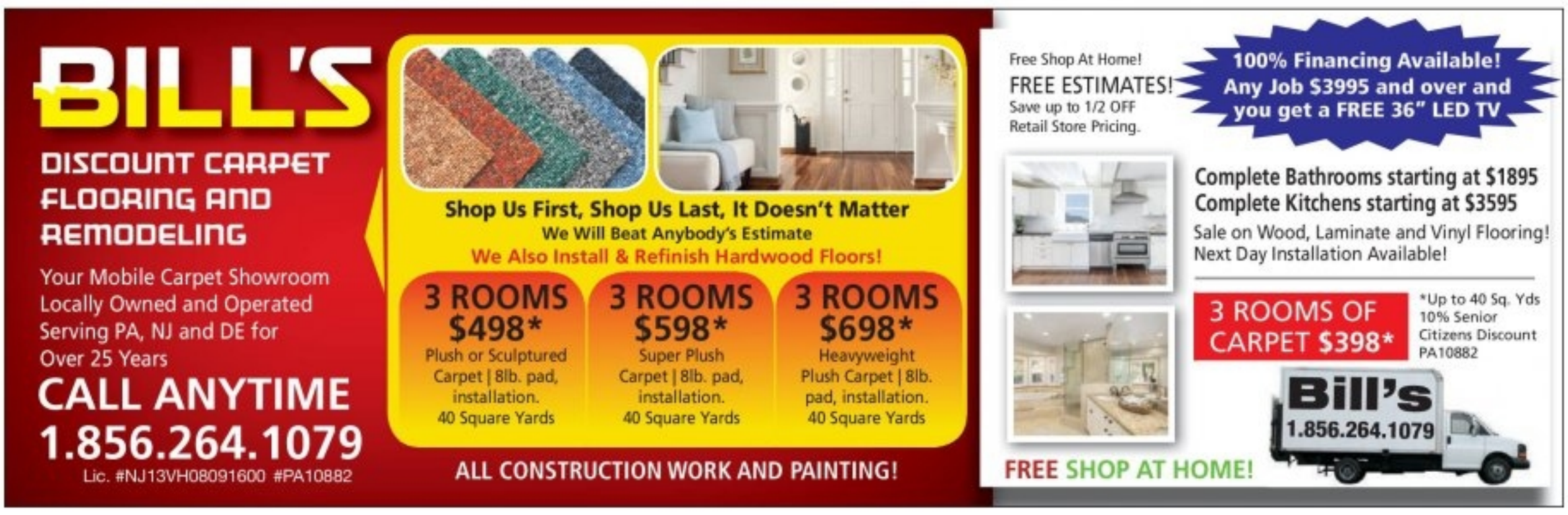
"As a little kid the Red Sox were my favorite team," admitted Franco, who went 4-for-9 with an RBI and two runs scored at Fenway.

"Pedro Martinez and Manny Ramirez were my favorite players. Now I had the opportunity to play them there."

Nevertheless, it would be getting way too far ahead of things to suggest Franco & Co. might get another crack at Fenway come late October and the World Series. But for the guy who legitimately had to wonder not that long ago where he might be working, it's just nice coming to the ballpark these days knowing his place is secure.

"I've had some tough moments and some really good moments," said Franco. "It's more relaxing when you know coming in you expect to play. It's easy to come in and do your work and get ready for the game."

So who needs Manny Machado? For Maikel Franco and the Phillies, who once seemed destined to part ways, what a difference two months make.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Sudfeld ready for preseason spotlight

The young QB will see plenty of action against the Steelers.

ERIC GOLDSTEIN
sports@metro.us

Nate Sudfeld will see the brunt of the action Thursday. GETTY IMAGES

Instead of watching last year's MVP candidate Carson Wentz or Super Bowl MVP Nick Foles fire passes to receivers, the 40,000 fans at the Eagles open practice on Sunday night at Lincoln Financial Field endured a heavy dose of third-string quarterback Nate Sudfeld, who ran most of the plays with the first team offense. Better get used to it, Eagles fans.

With Wentz still not cleared for contact and Foles nursing neck spasms, Sudfeld is likely your starting quarterback, and Joe Callahan as his backup, for the preseason opener on Thursday at home against the Steelers.

"I am getting more reps this year than I ever have before, so that gives me a lot of confidence because nothing should be too new on Thursday," Sudfeld said after practice on Tuesday. "It's not going to be perfect, but I'm looking at trying to get into a rhythm and flow and hopefully make good plays out there."

Wentz is not expected to play in the preseason as a precaution to protect his surgically repaired left knee. Foles, if healthy, will play a few series or a quarter in next week's preseason game at the Patriots, probably a half of the third game in Cleveland and then sit out the final one at home versus the New York Jets.

Therefore, a majority of the remaining snaps will go to Sudfeld, who has a golden chance to prove he can play quarterback in the NFL.

"It's extremely valuable [for Sudfeld]," coach Doug Pederson said. "We saw Nate in the Dallas game at the end of the year and thought he played well there. Those are the things that you hope he can carry over into the preseason this year."

The Washington Redskins selected Nate Sudfeld out of Indiana in the sixth round of the 2016 draft but cut him on Sept. 2, 2017. The Eagles signed the California native to their practice squad the next day and added him to the active roster in November. Sudfeld served as Foles' backup for the remainder of the year, including in the playoffs and Super Bowl.

Aforementioned, his only appearance was in a meaningless regular-season finale against the Cowboys, where he completed 19-of-23 passes for 134 yards.

"I feel like I have improved a lot since I joined the Eagles," Sudfeld said. "There hasn't been a single day where I feel like I haven't gone to work with a purpose and knowing what I need to improve on whether it was mental or physical. I feel like I have built something good here."

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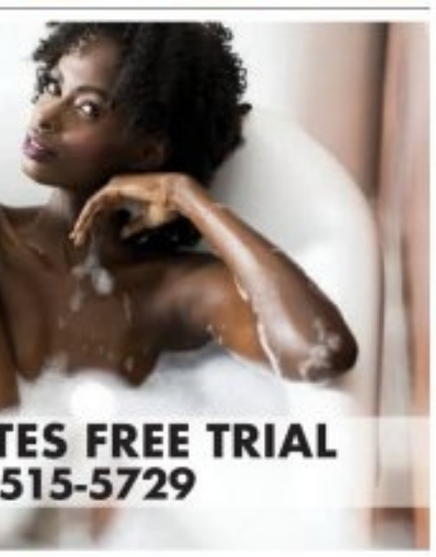

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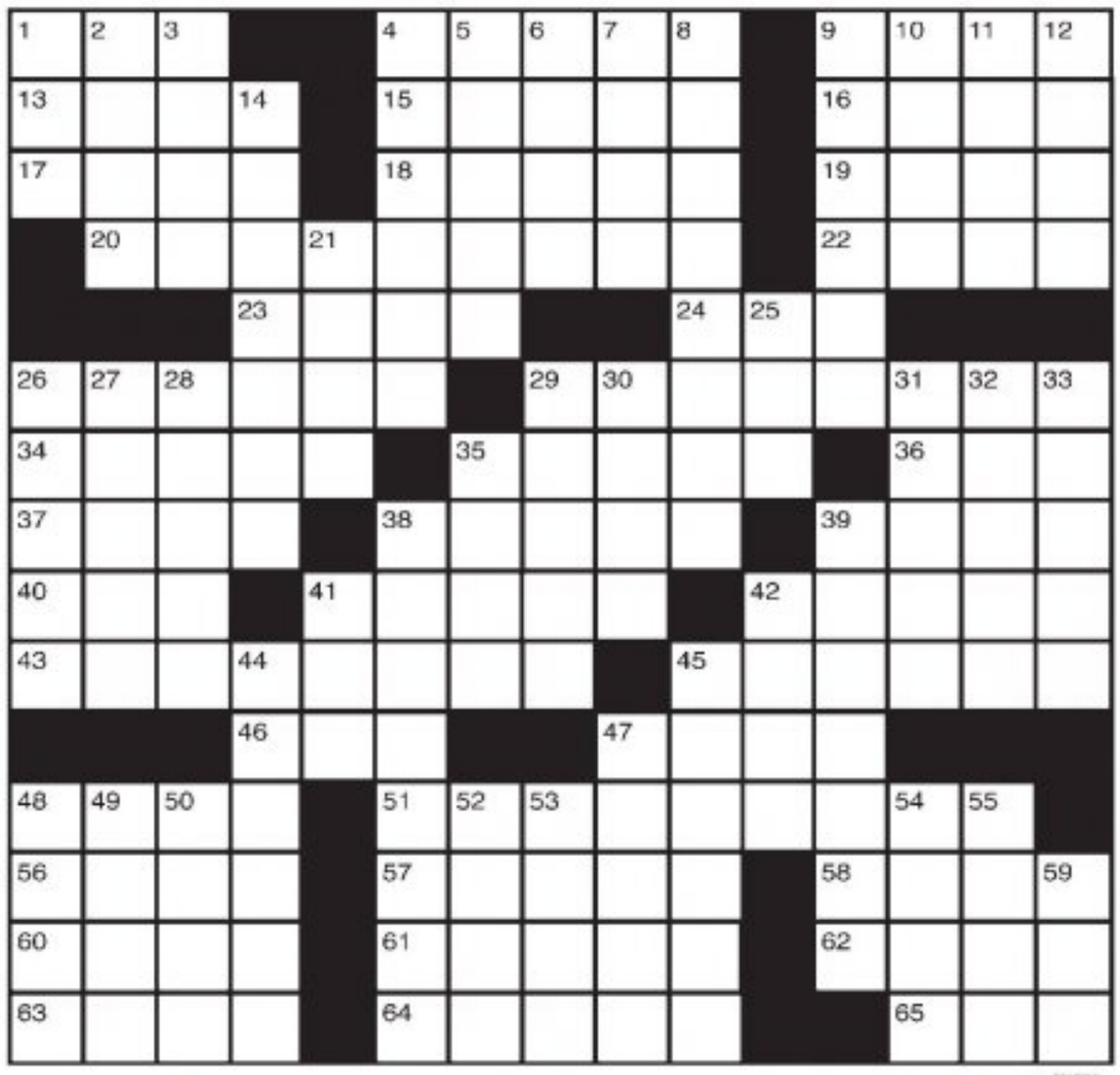

BY TCA

ACROSS

11 Late comedian Bernie
4 Argyles
9 __ out; protrudes
13 Needs some medicine
15 Make amends
16 Bogeyman
17 Word of mild disgust
18 Overly prim
19 Murdered
20 Popular pasta
22 Watches
23 Raise, as kids
24 Geography book diagram
26 Tooth hole
29 Abundance; large amount
34 Microwaves
35 Male bee
36 "Old King Cole __ a merry old soul..."
37 Björn of tennis
38 Banquet
39 Helsinki native
40 Big __; 18-wheeler
41 Pennies
42 Pig out
43 Sufficient
45 Fast-food item
46 Shake-__; radical reorganizations
47 "__ with the Wind"
48 Bangkok resident
51 Significant
56 On a __; winning repeatedly
57 Facial hair
58 Librarian's advice
60 Smallest continent: abbr.
61 Massive
62 Short note
63 __ and cons
64 Go into
65 Last calendar pg.

DOWN

1 Irate
2 Broadcasts
3 Sound of thunder
4 Walk about pompously
5 Furry swimmer
6 Layer of paint
7 Make bootees
8 Gritty residue
9 Nativity scene figurine
10 Unsightly
11 Juniper or poplar
12 Stitches
14 Gazing
21 __ away; escapes
25 Polished off
26 Deadly viper
27 Steer clear of
28 Threshold; brink
29 Babble
30 Bereavement
31 __ to; because of
32 "Home on the __"
33 Actor Ed __
35 Car ding
38 Doable; possible
39 Gun
41 Recipe measurement
42 Tap a baseball
44 Bed coverings
45 Edge
47 Steep-walled canyon
48 Mouse catcher
49 Period of time
50 Additionally
52 Cruel
53 Portion
54 Have to have
55 Easy to handle
59 M.D., familiarly

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D	A	N	C	E	C	R	K	D	L
R	L	G	X	A	I	V	R	E	L
A	W	A	R	D	S	A	D	C	A
O	A	H	O	A	U	O	M	N	N
B	Y	Q	I	G	M	I	D	O	O
L	S	I	Y	T	R	M	T	T	I
L	L	D	Y	A	N	S	Y	A	T
I	O	X	C	M	U	E	C	L	O
B	V	L	F	O	M	E	Y	L	M
P	E	X	H	A	L	E	C	A	E

All at Once
Always Love
Awards
Billboard
Bodyguard
Dance
Emmy
Emotional
Exhale
Grammy
Houston
Miracle
Model
Music
Whitney

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Category: Two for One

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6	7				2		5	
	8	5			4		3	
2		4				9	7	
8			9		6			
		9		2		3		
			5		3			8
	2	8				5		3
	5		2			4	1	
	9		6				8	2

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O	N	C	E		S	C	A	P	E	G	O	A	T	S
I	D	O		R	E	I	N	S		H	O	R	S	E
		M	E	A	N	T			Z	A	P			
I	M	P	A	C	T			F	I	N	I	S	H	
F	A	L	S	E		S	A	U	N	A		C	A	N
F	R	E	T		C	L	I	N	G		B	A	S	E
Y	E	T		G	U	A	R	D		S	A	N	T	A
	S	E	C	R	E	T			G	A	N	D	E	R
			H	A	S			F	O	N	D	A		
S	T	O	A	T		S	W	O	R	D		L	O	G
P	E	R	M	E	A	T	I	N	G		I	O	W	A
U	T	E	P		C	A	S	T	E		R	U	N	G
N	E	S	S		T	R	E	S	S		E	S	S	

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